LOUISIANA GAME, FUR AND FISH

FORMERLY THE LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST

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FISHING SPOTS LURE VACATIONISTS

Photo courtesy Standard Oil (N. J.)

Fishing in colorful and picturesque bayous is great sport, and the natural scenic beauty adds to the pleasure for the entire family. Scenes such as this are familiar throughout Louisiana and especially in the summer time.

DUCK HUNTERS GIVEN FIRST HAND DATA ON MIGRATORY SITUATION

Duck hunters of Louisiana as well as representatives from surrounding states were given first hand information on the current migratory waterfowl situation at an open meeting of sportsmen held in New Orleans at the St. Charles Hotel, Monday, May 12th. The meeting was conducted by top officials of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was one of a series of eleven similar meetings being held throughout the country in key states.

Chairman of the Louisiana meeting was Dr. Ernest Angelo, Bogalusa, President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, who introduced the speakers. Principal speakers at the meeting, representing the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, included Dr. Clarence Cottam, assistant director of the Service, W. E. Crouch, chief, Division of Game Management, and James Silver, Regional Director of the Service, which comprises the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Bert E. Thomas, Commissioner of the Alabama Conservation Department led a delegation of sportsmen from his State to the meeting, and there were representatives also from other nearby states.

In his address, Dr. Cottom told

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U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE TOP OFFICIALS AT DUCK MEETING

DR. CLARENCE COTTAM
Assistant Director

W. E. CROUCH
Chief of Game Management

CONGRESS HOLDS HEARING ON BILLS FOR OYSTER REHABILITATION

Testimony was presented to a sub committee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee of the House in favor of two bills asking Congress to appropriate a total of $4,068,000 for rehabilitation and replanting of oyster beds destroyed as a result of the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway during the high waters of 1945. The hearing was held during the first week in May in Washington on bills introduced by Representative William M. Colmer of the sixth Mississippi District and Congressman James Domengeaux of the third Louisiana District.

Rep. Colmer's bill asks for an appropriation of $3,000,000 for rehabilitation and replanting of oyster beds destroyed east of the Mississippi River while Rep. Domengeaux's bill asks for an appropriation of $1,068,000 for replant-

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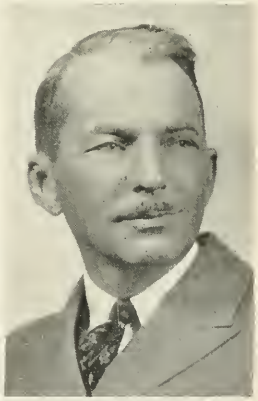

JAMES SILVER
Regional Director, Atlanta Region, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who with Dr. Cottam and Mr. Crouch conducted the open meeting on migratory regulations held in New Orleans May 12.

JIMMIE H. DAVIS
Governor of Louisiana

LUTHER S. MONTGOMERY
Commissioner

LOUISIANA GAME, FUR AND FISH

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ISAAC D. CHAPMAN
Editor

Member, Southwestern Association of Industrial Editors

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Volume 5 **MAY, 1947** **Number 6**

ARMADILLOS ARE PERSECUTED

Biologist Calls Them Farmer's Friends

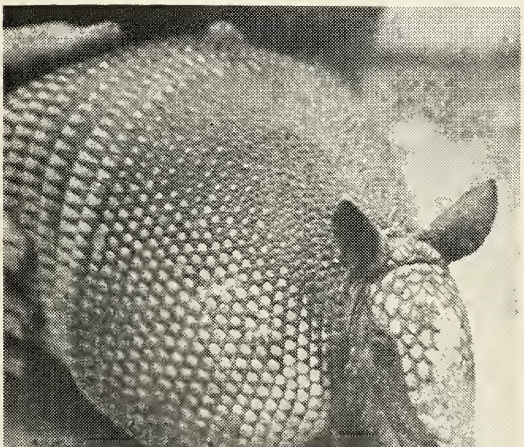
By John P. Durham, Jr.

Don't shoot those armidillos, they're the hunters' and farmers' friends.

That was the plea made this month by Dr. James Nelson Gowanloch, chief biologist of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, in reply to queries of sportsmen and landowners who expressed growing alarm over the rapid increase in the peculiar little animal.

"Armadillos are the most persecuted of all our animals in Louisiana, and for absolutely no good reason," said Dr. Gowanloch, after a recent study of the habits of the creature. "Instead of being a detriment to quail—some hunters report that armadillos feed on quail eggs—actually, they protect the bird by removing its most feared enemy, the fire ant."

The Texas nine-banned armadillo, the only breed of the animal found in Louisiana, may, in isolated cases, partake of the delicacy offered in a quail's nest, but the occasion is so rare it merits no more concern than the predatory efforts of other inhabitants of the woods and prairies of the Pelican State, in the opinion of Dr. Gowanloch.



Cut courtesy Florida Sportsman
Close-up of the Armadilla

"In my study of the animal," he commented, "I have found, as have others before me, that the chief diet of the armadillo is insect life. Such things as grasshoppers, crickets, roaches, caterpillars, bees, wasps and the aforementioned ants are his diet."

"Weighing the armadillo's good habits against any possible bad inclinations", the biologist asserted, "convinces me that his value to farmers, gardeners and hunters far outweighs any adverse qualifications he may have. That is why I urge would-be killers of the animal to think first before destroying such an asset."

Some land-owners have complained to the department that armadillos are tearing up their ground, leaving large holes and unsightly mounds for the tired farmer to grade. Others have complained that the armor-plated curiosity was responsible in tearing up their flower gardens.

"But they, too, are isolated cases," said Chief Biologist Gowanloch. "I still say that the work they do in destroying fire ants and hundreds of other crop-eating insects far outweighs anything in the way of damage they may do to the land on which they live."

He said the armadillo migrated to the United States from Mexico, the earliest known date being in the 1870's. Since that time, it has traveled east from Texas, and has penetrated north as far as Oklahoma.

Right now, the armadillo is estimated to number in the hundreds of thousands in the Pelican State, and is said to be increasing at such a rapid rate that it will one day be the most numerous of all Louisiana's wild animals.

They prefer dry, rocky surfaces, and in many cases soft pine hills, as ideal breeding grounds. Low, swampy areas are usually avoided, since armadillos are not favorably inclined toward waters.

Their rapid growth in Louisiana is attributed to the increase of levees along the river-banks and streams in the state, and to the not-too-cold climate which is necessary for their survival.

Dr. Gowanloch expressed doubt that armadillos would ever migrate any farther north than the State of Arkansas, since their hairless shells make them so vulnerable to cold weather. Some of the animals have been reported in Alabama, and a colony has been found in Florida.

Armadillos are fortunate, in one respect, that they do not have to worry about being taken for pelts or for food, and therefore have been allowed to increase more rapidly than their valuable cohabitants of the woods, the furbearing animals. Their only known commercial use is in the adoption of their shells for decorative bowls, lampshades and ash-trays, and occasionally, for food.

DONALDSONVILLE UNIT NAMES ITS OFFICERS

Officers of the Ascension Parish Unit Number 2 of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation at Donaldsonville, were elected at a recent meeting. The new officers are Milton Schmidt, President; H. O. Champagne, Vice-President; R. N. Sims, Secretary, and Hubert Daigle, Treasurer.

The male cow-bird is the only black bird with a brown head.

NEW FRONTIERS IN CONSERVATION

By OSCAR L. CHAPMAN
Under Secretary of U. S.
Department of the Interior

It is a real pleasure to appear before the Louisiana Wildlife Federation to discuss "New Frontiers in Conservation," and I shall apply myself particularly to the natural resources with which this State has been so bountifully endowed. Not only do your land areas support abundant native game and fur, not only do you play host to great numbers of migratory waterfowl during the winter period, but your lakes, bayous and the bordering waters of the Gulf of Mexico contain a wealth of fisheries that may be described with no less a word than "enormous." Yours is, indeed, a region teeming with Nature's gifts. It is good to know that a state-wide organization such as the Louisiana Wildlife Federation with its leaders from

Editor's Note: One of the principal speakers at the convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation was the Honorable Oscar L. Chapman, Under Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior, whose subject was "New Frontiers in Conservation." The accompanying article is a consendation of the paper by Mr. Chapman.

clubs in many communities is functioning in an effort to conserve and make wise use of these products of rich soil and water.

What are some of your problems here? What are the major issues confronting this group? Of course you have them because the richer your resources the greater the need for careful handling. For example, in Louisiana you must be careful that in bringing one resource into top production you do not ruin another. I have in mind your oil wells whose production last year was exceeded only by that of your neighboring State of Texas and by California. As more wells come into production, as drilling operations are extended into the delta marshes, there is a shrinkage of available wintering grounds vitally necessary for geese and ducks. Flaming gas wells spreading into new areas have a frightening effect on the waterfowl (there is no evidence so far as I can learn that they prefer gas-heated homes while sojourning in the South). The natural riches found deep in the soil of Louisiana—your salt and sulphur mines—have in them the elements of pollution detrimental to both game and fish. So do the busy manufacturing plants built along the waterways. In establishing "New Frontiers in Conservation" you cannot sidestep the dangers produced by mineral and manufacturing progress.

No impending development holds greater potentialities for affecting fish and wildlife than plans sponsored by the Federal Government for manipulating the streams and other water areas of Louisiana, as well as of the entire Nation. If consummated, these water development programs will govern the kind and amount of fish and wildlife over much of our country and will have far-reaching effects on the life and economy of our people. These effects will arise from profound and permanent changes in the environment.

In the past, impoundment programs have generally, if not universally and completely, ignored the fish and wildlife habitat upon which they encroached. The criteria in dam planning and construction have been the number of kilowatts that could be generated, the number of acres irrigated, the greatest benefit to navigation, and maximum protection to property through flood control. All of the purposes are commendable, but they have been achieved in some degree at the expense of other interests, notably fish and wildlife. Conservationists realize that they have paid a high price for not making their voices heard sooner to prevent or mitigate the despoiling of vast areas of valuable habitat. Now, in the face of the most comprehensive impoundment program in history, it is inconceivable that they do less than fight for full consideration of the best interests of fish and wildlife.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that big dams are permanent and that they result in permanent changes in the environment. It is for this reason that fish and wildlife interests should be considered during the planning stages of every project, or certainly prior to construction.

If we do this properly, it will require the expenditure of additional funds in many cases but the investments will pay dividends throughout the life of the projects.

Under present legislation it is the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Service working with the State Conservation Department to make detailed investigations and reports on the effects of impoundment projects on fish and wildlife. These reports are submitted to the project sponsors who will consider them as integral parts of project plans.

The U. S. Army Engineers have proposed a navigation, flood control, irrigation, and drainage project on the Mermentau River in southern Louisiana. The Fish and Wildlife Service is extremely interested in this project which involves some 40,000 acres of marsh wildlife habitat, including our Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge. This area is very important to wintering waterfowl, fur animals, and other species such as the whooping crane which is now almost extinct. The Lacassine Refuge has one of the heaviest concentrations of nutria in the country, and an intensive study of this fur animal is now being conducted

OSCAR L. CHAPMAN

on the area. Indications are that its propagation will be of tremenous value to Louisiana trappers.

The Engineers propose to place control structures on the Mermentau River and other points, which would enable them to control salt water intrusion into the area. This would then make the water within the area more suitable for the irrigation of rice fields. We in the Department of the Interior are concerned with the operation of the project to determine the possible effect of any fluctuating water levels on the habitat.

The River Basin Studies Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service is also concerned with the Army Engineers flood control and navigation project on the Red River in Louisiana. The navigation project provides for construction of a channel from the mouth of the Mississippi River up through Shreveport. This would involve drainage of approximately 50,000 acres. The flood control project provides for construction of impoundments, such as the present Wallace Lake Dam and the proposed Bayou Bodcau impoundment near Shreveport, which would reduce bottom land flooding along the Red River. Control of floods within this area might result in a great reduction of bottom-land wildlife habitat now being used, through making this land more available to farming. Our biologists are presently surveying this important area to determine the possible effects of this project on the fish, waterfowl, upland game, and fur resources.

Other proposed projects in Louisiana with which we are concerned are Pearl River, the Intracoastal Waterway, Beouf and Tensas Rivers, Bayou Macon, Pineville, and the Rigolets areas. These will be investigated as soon as possible.

Dove-tailing with the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service participation in waterway improvement is the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program, better known as the Pittman-Robertson program.

Funds to finance the Federal share of the costs of this work come from the excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. Moneys thus collected are deposited in a special fund in the Treasury known as the "Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Fund." Appropriations made by the Congress out of this fund are apportioned to the 47 participating States. As of December 31, 1946, this fund contained almost $18,000,000. The accumulated reserve resulted primarily from low appropriations being made during the war period. This backlog of funds is available for future appropriation by the Congress and Louisiana's share will be close to $300,000. To date, close to $200,000 has been allotted to Louisiana to help finance her wildlife restoration projects.

One of the most important wildlife factories in the United States is located in the coastal marshes of Louisiana. In these days of generally dwindling wildlife resources it is heartening to know that Louisiana broke all existing fur catches last year, topping any other State in the Union as well as the Territory of Alaska with

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NEW FRONTIERS IN CONSERVATION

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its $15,000,000 fur harvest. With a muskat catch of more than 8,000,000 pelts leading the field, you also produced extraordinary numbers of mink, raccoons and possums. A surprising feature of your fur resources is the South American nutria introduced here some 15 years ago. The nutria seems to like your Louisiana marshes.

The recent decline of waterfowl which became evident in 1945 and reached a critical condition in 1946 has pointed up one fact. There is an acute shortage of "duck hotels," or suitable wintering grounds, in the South. Waterfowl refuges of this type are an advantage to the hunters as well as to the birds. The good feeding conditions and places to rest not only are essential to the welfare of the waterfowl, but they hold the flocks in the vicinity longer so that shooting is improved over a longer period. The present trend of increased shooting pressure and continued encroachment of remaining waterfowl habitat indicates all too clearly that the existing refuge areas, both Federal and State, provide only about 25 percent of the sanctuary space required. The responsibility for completion of the job rests squarely on the shoulders of all conservation agencies and sportsmen interested in perpetuation of wild ducks and geese. It is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire and develop areas which are potientially suitable for the needs of waterfowl. Time is the essence of success because of the steady encompassing of remaining marshes and lakes through industrial or other developments. The necessity for early and continued action must be recognized and it is imperative that every responsible agency and group contribute full measure.

Unless hyacinth and alligatorweed are brought under control in the very near future, the wildlife and fishery resources of the wetlands of the entire Gulf Coast will be damaged further, and in some cases utterly destroyed.

Since these resources are of great importance to the States of the Gulf Coast and the South Atlantic seaboard, and since tourist fisheries and migratory waterfowl are a portion of a resource that has a national and international significance, immediate control of destructive water weeds is warranted.

The field investigations and experiments conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service show that the weed control methods currently employed or contemplated are not seriously detrimental to either wildlife or fish. The temporary damage resulting from the decomposition of the killed plants will cause extremely small losses compared with those brought about by the weed infestation itself.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recommends:

That immediate and complete control of water hyacinth and alligatorweed be undertaken;

That Federal, State and private agencies utilize every known efficient means to accomplish this end;

That such control may be undertaken in the light of present data without fear of causing damages to wildlife and fish that will be any more serious than those already brought about by weed infestation;

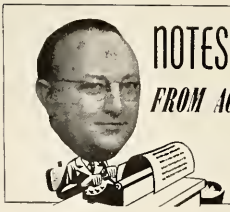
That such control be undertaken as soon as practicable, since the undesirable after-effects of weed control are aggravated by prolonged infestation;

That agencies undertaking control maintain liaison with the Fish and Wildlife Service in order to prevent use of new chemicals that may be injurious to wildlife and fish.

Altogether, the natural resources of this region not only provide a solid foundation upon which to base abundant means of livelihood, but offer recreational facilities that have made the Pelican State famous. Add to these features your situation at the mouth of America's greatest river system, and you also possess enviable opportunities for trade and commerce. Your problems, indeed, seem to arise from richness, not barrenness, of water and soil—hyacinth and alligatorweed—gushing oil wells and flaming gas vents. Yours are principally problems of control rather than construction.

LAFOURCHE SPORTSMEN HOLD ELECTION

All of the 1946 officers of the Lafourche Sportsmen's club were re-elected at the annual election of officers of the club held the first part of April. Re-elected were J. Alvin Badeaux, Thibodaux, president; Joe Daviet, Lockport, vice-president; Dr. C. J. Marcello, Thibodaux, vice-president; Edmond Carriere, Golden Meadow, vice-pres.; Andrew Hoffmann, treasurer, and Gene Knobloch, sec'y.



NOTES & OBSERVATIONS...

FROM ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY Isaac Chapman

The yearly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has come and gone. The gathering followed the usual pattern of other meetings. There was much interest and enthusiasm. The sportsmen heard a lot of good talks and passed a lot of good resolutions, and then they went home.

* * *

Among other things they decided to strengthen their organization and agreed to employ a full time secretary so that their Federation could become a year-round functioning group. They laid plans to increase their finances immediately and to organize more clubs and obtain more members.

* * *

The time is ripe now for doing all these things, because interest in wildlife conservation and among the sportsmen of Louisiana is greater than it has ever been. If the Wildlife Federation follows through all its good resolutions and intentions it will provide a substantial contribution for the betterment of the wildlife conservation movement. If, on the other hand, they follow the pattern of some of their past actions, and relax in their interest and enthusiasm, they will have only themselves to blame if their program bogs down.

* * *

Unified nation-wide support is needed to support passage of the Federal Aid to State Fishery bill now pending before Congress. The bill, H. R. 1693, recently introduced by Congressman John D. Dingell of Michigan is in committee and will not receive action without substantial backing.

* * *

This bill proposes to do for state fisheries programs what the Pittman-Robertson bill has done for wildlife projects. The Pittman-Robertson bill, as our readers may recall, dedicates the excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition to a special fund, portions of which is appropriated each year by Congress, and is divided among the various states on the basis of hunting licenses sold. These funds are used for specific wildlife projects, and the participating states are required to put up 25 per cent of the costs of such projects, with 75 percent coming from the Pittman-Robertson federal dedicated funds.

* * *

In Louisiana, a number of important and worthwhile game projects have been made possible through these Pittman-Robertson funds. Among these have been a quail research and rehabilitation program which has been under way for several years, a research project on the wild turkey, a game census taking in all of the 64 parishes in the State which is now under way, a marsh management study and other worthy undertakings for the improvement of various phases of wildlife in Louisiana.

* * *

Now, this proposed Federal aid to fisheries, plans to follow along lines of Pittman-Robertson, by earmarking the 10 percent excise tax on sport fishing tackle for that purpose. The present bill specifies that the tax now being collected on sport fishing rods, reels, creels, artificial lures, baits and flies shall go to the states for fishery restoration and management instead of the Treasury.

* * *

The bill prescribes that eligible projects shall be those designed for the restoration and management of all species of fish, and includes research, management restocking and water rehabilitation. The bill follows the same pattern of the Pittman-Robertson act for game by providing that the federal government shall put up 75 percent of the costs of such projects from these funds and 25 percent to be contributed by the states.

WAKE UP AMERICA!

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK AND TIME FOR SOME CONCERTED ACTION

If you would know the true story of Americans, their wildlife and their land, look first to history. On its pages you will find that story, revealed in the critical light of historical fact. To better understand this story, however, it is necessary to first scan the history of other men and their land. It is necessary to look at yesterday as well as at today.

Look at history, and you will see nation after nation march across its pages, to rise and flourish on a fertile land, and to pass on into national decay or oblivion with the depletion of that fertility. Look at history, America. When you do, you will see that civilized man has always misused the land. You will see many unproductive scars on old Mother Earth, lands that once housed and fed great nations. Look at the history of any nation that has ever tilled the soil and you will see that man is not worthy of his stewardship of the land. He always despoils the land, and the degree of his destruction can be measured in terms of his tenure plus his so-called civilization.

Editor's Note: One of the most interesting papers delivered at the 12th annual North American Wildlife Conference held in San Antonio in February was entitled "Wake Up, America!", by Mel O. Steen, chief Division of Fish and Game of the Missouri Conservation Commission.

Because of its important message to the conservationists of America, we feel that its timely message will be of interest to Louisianans and we are publishing abstracts of it in this issue.

When the source of man's sustenance and material glory will no longer sustain his way of life, he does one of two things: He sinks into individual and national decay, or he takes, by force of arms, more fertile land from some other nation. **That** is history!

Van Loon defines history in this short but tremendously significant sentence: "History is the story of a hungry animal in search of food." But man is not possessed of physical hunger alone. His hunger engulfs the whole array of human desire and he uses the land to satiate that hunger without much regard for the future. Man's philosophy with respect to the land is "Rip it off the hills; gouge it out of the soil; get it into the bank in one generation if possible." His slogan is "To hell with tomorrow, I want **mine today!**"

These are searing words, but they are not my words. I only quote from history. These are not my words, these words are written on the sands of time; they are scrawled across the pages of history—that "story of a hungry animal in search of food."

So much for yesterday, now let us look at today.

You are young and you are strong, America. You are progressive, you are wise. Your way of life is different, your ideals are high, you will not do these things, you say. Let us look at the record —at your history.

You are young, America. This land has been under your control some three hundred years, more or less. For about one hundred years you have used it intensively. Tonnage yields to feed the world has been your goal. You have produced, but at a price. You have produced, but you have also ruined, partially or completely, more than half the fertile topsoil you possessed. It took the Chinese ten times as long to do as much to China!

MEL O. STEEN

You are progressive, America. When your land fails to produce the tonnage you desire you fix things up with chemical fertilizers. But you pay no attention to the warnings of scientists whose long experience in tilling the soil leads them to say that chemical fertilization is only a delusion, a stopgap, a tonnage producer that does not restore essential, life-giving elements inherent in a fertile soil.

You are wise, America. When your overworked corn lands lost much of their fertility and their ability to produce, you came forth with hybrid corn. Your corn yields sky-rocketed, and you are still congratulating yourself on your ingenuity. But you fail to take note of one significant thing. You overlook the fact that history will record hybrid corn as being **that** corn which had the ability to take fertility out of the soil twice as fast as any corn that man had ever grown before!

The truth is that your own land-use history records you as the greatest spend-thrift of all time. You have developed bigger, better and faster ways of using up soil fertility than has any nation in all the world. You are the champion playboy of all history, and your extravagance is exceeded only by your disregard of the consequences.

"And what", you may well ask, "has all this to do with wildlife?" Simply this, that nature makes no distinction between wild and tame life insofar as soil fertility is concerned. In Old Mother Nature's book nutrition is nutrition, and

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Cut courtesy Missouri Conservationist

That individual is relatively rare who has learned that he can maintain the fertility of his farm and make more money.

TIME TO WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Continued from Page 5)

life is life. It makes no difference whether that life be wild or tame.

It is true, however, that misuse of the land is a two-edged sword insofar as wildlife is concerned. It reduces protective cover as well as fertility. Adequate protective cover and adequate nutrition are the two big essentials of wildlife production, and both these essentials are impaired by misuse of the land.

At the present time prices of farm products are very high and the economic incentive to squeeze every last pound of production out of the land is great. Our land is being squeezed, and protective cover is being reduced to a minimum. The immediate effect is to increase erosion and reduce wildlife, but the long time effect is to reduce land fertility and hence, all production.

The simple truth is that man can not reduce soil fertility without all life suffering the consequences. That truth is supported by evidence which grows steadily in volume and significance. This evidence puts the emphasis on qualitative rather than quantitative nutrition. Soil fertility determines the quality and contents of foodstuffs, and the quality and contents of foodstuffs affects all life. The evidence is overwhelming. When insane men are made sane through the avenue of nutrition alone, one can no longer doubt that quality counts. Some day foodstuffs will be valued on the basis of quality, not quantity. When that day comes we may have the enconomic incentive that will save our soil. Until we do, we must save the land by any means we can.

The simple truth is that the growth, vigor, survival and reproduction of all life is wedded to the land by unbreakable bonds. The truth is that America should maintain, without impairment, the fertility of all her lands. To do otherwise is unthinkable, and must eventually lead to disasater. It is not wildlife alone that hangs in this balance, it is America herself that is at stake.

If this be true, what are we doing to maintain the fertility of our land. Let us look at the record. Let us look at history—today's history.

As individuals we are doing relatively little. Here and there an individual has learned that he can maintain the fertility of his farm and make more money in the long run than if he misused his land. But that individual is relatively rare. The masses know nothing of this. In fact, the masses, including the vast majority of those who till the land, know little or nothing of the true significance of land fertility and the real dangers of land abuse.

As a nation, we have done very little to save our agricultural lands. Our most effective governmental actions have been the establishment of the Soil Conservation Service, and the intiation of benefit payments to American farmers for soil-conserving practices. But neither of these came by any united design or desire of the American people. The first came into being largely because of the inspired leadership and dogged persistence of a single American citizen. The second does not have even that background. Benefit payments for soil-conserving practices in America came into being by chance—they were initiated because the Supreme Court of the United States said we could not pay public money to American farmers for plowing under crops and killing little pigs. **Thus** was born America's national efforts to save her soil.

If this is not enough to convince you that America does not know the score, look to the seat of your government,—look to Washington. There you will see your government appropriating forty-five million dollars to the Soil Conservation Service to finance their work of holding America's water where it falls and her soil where it lies, and, at the same time appropriating one hundred and eighty-five million dollars to the War Department with which to make down payments on dams designed to stop the water that doesn't linger where it falls and the soil that doesn't stay where it lies.

Forty-five million dollars to the doctors who feverishly strive to sew up your severed and gushing arteries, America — and frankly admit that they are waging a losing fight—forty-five million dollars to the doctors who feverishly strive to suture your severed and gushing arteries, and four times that sum to the tinsmiths who beat out buckets with which you propose to preserve your life's blood. That is not—as some may assume —an indictment of tinsmiths. It is an indictment of **you**, America, **you**, who entertains and tolerates such a twisted, distorted, cockeyed concept of national values and national needs;

If you are not yet convinced that America doesn't know the truth, look again to Washington. There you will see many of your leaders and representatives sponsoring a movement to slash, by one-third, the appropriation for soil-conservation benefit payments. You will see the scalpels poised and ready to cut the heart and backbone out of America's effort to save her land. These men contend that you can not afford to pay for saving the soil, that you have other and better things to do with public money. You can afford, it seems, eleven billion dollars plus for national defense, but you can not afford three hundred million dollars to save the very thing you propose to defend. You can afford to subsidize navigation, aviation, hyrdo-electric development, flood control and other special interest groups, but you can not afford to subsidize the saving of the land, in which every living American has a stake, as do all the generations yet unborn;

You can afford to mobilize American manhood into armies that you count by the millions, to equip them with implements of destruction that stagger the imagination, you can afford navies that swarm the seven seas, you can afford aircraft that figuratively—and literally—blot out the sun, you can afford two hundred billion dollars in the prosecution of a single war, you can afford barrels —nay rivers, of American blood; all this, and more, you can afford to save America **danger** from **without**, but a little lip service, and a token gesture here and there is all you can afford to save America **disaster** from **within!**

America, you go the way all men have gone. You are a living symbol of the truth, that history repeats itself. You are not young, you are not strong, you are not wise, you only dream these things. You live an old, deceitful dream, that blinds your eye against the truth, that leads you down disaster's road. You have one chance and only one. Wake up! Shake off this dream. Wake up! Shake off this spell, that you may see, that you may take a **better** road.

Cut courtesy Missouri Conservationist

Man's philosophy with respect to the land is "Rip it off the hills; gouge it out of the soil; get it into the bank in one generation if possible." His slogan is "To hell with tomorrow, I want mine today!"

Duck Hunters Get Migratory Situation Data

(Continued from Page 1)

the sportsmen that the American waterfowl situation is "in the third great crisis of this century." He stated further that "during the past two years we have dipped deeply into our breeding stock. This trend must be halted. We are not going to try to set the 1947 season until after we see what the spring hatch will be, but the chances are we will have to tighten our belts," he said.

Mr. Crouch also told of some of the migratory problems confronting the country. Commissioner Luther S. Montgomery of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department also delivered a short talk.

Sportsmen from all parts of Louisiana were in attendance.

A question and answer period in which many of those present participated occupied most of the time of the meeting.

WITH THE MEN IN THE FIELD

Reports of Arrests and Activities of Wild Life Enforcement Agents

AGENTS PARTICIPATING IN APRIL ARRESTS

Cliff Ardoin	1
Jack Bates	8
Ivy Beard	3
Angelo Benandi	19
J. L. Book	19
Chas. Boudreaux	2
Harmon Burgess	9
John Busalacchi	2
James L. Carroll	5
Sam Chaze	12
Ernest Coats	3
Steve Collins	2
Leslie Davis	8
Rubin Davis	5
Tom Duck	2
C. W. Elam	6
Edwin Fairbanks	3
John W. Gilbert	5
Chas. J. Gordy	6
Allen Hawsey	1
Clarence Hood	13
P. F. Huddleston	3
W. A. Lee	6
James R. McFerrin	2
Spencer Maxwell	1
R. S. Millikin	1
Harold Moreau	9
Sam Nunez	19
Wilfred Nunez	15
Chas. Olano	1
Buford Patterson	5
W. C. Percy	2
Nat Pedro	19
Eugene Phillips	1
Ben A. Price	2
P. S. Reardon	1
Cliff Reeves	4
Harry Reno	5
Lawrence Sintes	14
Allen D. Swayze	2
Oliver Taunton	2
Dudley Trahan	1
Frank Terrebonne	8
Frank Trocchiano	2
Earl Vaught	3
Chas. Ventrella	2
Paul Voitier	2
L. C. Weaver	2
Jesse Laird	5
Ben Mayeaux	6
James Parker	1

TOTAL OF 147 ARRESTS DURING MONTH OF APRIL

Enforcement agents of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department made a total of 147 arrests during the month of April. These arrests were made in 31 parishes, with Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard leading the total number of arrests.

PARISHES IN WHICH VIOLATIONS OCCURRED DURING APRIL

Allen	1
Avoyelles	5
Bossier	1
Caddo	3
Calcasieu	4
Cameron	1
Catahoula	9
Concordia	2
DeSoto	3
Franklin	6
Iberville	3
Jefferson	5
Livingston	3
Madison	6
Natchitoches	2
Orleans	14
Ouachita	5
Plaquemines	14
Pointe Coupee	4
Rapides	2
Sabine	3
St. Bernard	11
St. Landry	7
St. Tammany	6
Tangipahoa	2
Tensas	7
Terrebonne	8
Vermilion	2
Vernon	5
West Carroll	1
Winn	2

New Supervisor And Game Agents Are Appointed

Appointment of a new district supervisor and several new enforcement agents for the Wild Life and Fisheries Department has been announced by Commissioner Luther S. Montgomery.

Robert F. Prather, Jennings, has been named supervisor of enforcement district number three, succeeding Harry W. Champagne, Breaux Bridge, who has been with the Department since 1944, and resigned because of ill health. Mr. Prather has had previous experience in enforcement work, having been connected with the former Conservation Department for a number of years.

Other new appointments announced by the Commissioner include Jas. L. Low, New Verda, agent for Grant Parish; Cullen J. Landry, Paincourtville, agent for Assumption Parish; Fred Cook, Ringgold, agent for Bienville Parish, Ivan W. Fisk, Lake Charles, agent for Calcasieu Parish, James B. Ware, agent for Webster Parish, and Ardon E. Jones, agent for Ouachita Parish. These new agents, the Commissioner stated, have taken civil service examinations and were certified as high men from their respective parishes.

District number 3 headed by new Supervisior Prather comprises the parishes of Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jeff Davis, Lafayette, Iberia, St. Martin, Vermilion, St. Landry, Evangeline and Beauregard.

SALARY INCREASES GIVEN WILD LIFE ENFORCEMENT AGENTS

All enforcement agents of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department, have during the past two months, been given salary increases, it has been announced by Commissioner L. S. Montgomery. To many of the agents it has been the first salary increase in many years.

Sentiment in favor of better salaries to game agents has been increasing throughout the state, especially since the enforcement of the fish and game laws has shown considerable improvement.

In a letter to the agents informing them of an increase in salary, Commissioner Montgomery urged them to exert more effort in enforcing the State's wildlife conservation laws and told them that their actions in the future may merit and help make possible still other increases.

GOWANLOCH STRESSES RESEARCH IMPORTANCE

If shrimp and other fishing industries are to remain economically and biologically sound, marine research is a must, Dr. James N. Gowanloch, chief biologist of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department declared in a recent address before the Mississippi Academy of Science at its annual convention held in Biloxi.

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING APRIL

Angling Without License
Commercial Fishing—No License
Possessing Undersize Commercial Fish
Taking Game Fish With Illegal Tackle
Commercial Fishing With Illegal Tackle
Commercial Fishing in Closed Waters
Possessing Frogs During Closed Season
Possessing Undersize Shrimp
Fishing With Explosives
Hunting Squirrels During Closed Season
Hunting Turkey During Closed Season
Hunting Deer During Closed Season
Hunting Frogs During Closed Season
Hunting Rabbits During Closed Season
Trapping—No License
Killing Fur Bearing Animals With Gun
Selling Game Fish
Polution of Stream

Federal Duck Stamp To Be Goose Stamp

The $1 federal duck stamp is going to be a goose stamp this year, the fish and wildlife service has announced.

Jack Murray, Boston artist will "do" the new stamp. His design shows two snow geese in flight.

The stamp will go on sale at all first and second class post offices July 1.

"It's a beauty," Frederick C. Lincoln, senior ornithologist for the agency, remarked to a reporter. "It will be the third goose stamp in the 14 years the series has been issued. The others have all been ducks."

Every migratory-waterfowl hunter over 16 years of age is required to buy a stamp. Proceeds go to the purchase and maintenance of waterfowl refuges. Last year's record-breaking stamp sales totaled $1,836,390.

The only animals known to have black tongues are polar bears and chow dogs.

Congress Hears Testimony on Oyster Losses

(Continued from Page 1)

ing oyster beds west of the Mississippi River.

Principle testimony for these measures was presented by a delegation of officials of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Department, which included Harry P. Gamble, counsel for the Department; James N. McConnell, director of the Division of Oysters and Waterbottoms, and Dr. James N. Gowanloch, chief biologist.

State Representative Reece O. Bickerstaff, counsel for the Mississippi Seafood Commission, gave the principle testimony for the Mississippi delegation.

Congressman Domengeaux stated that the two bills seek to reimburse the lessees and owners of the damaged oyster beds on the grounds of the wartime inability of the United States Army engineers to complete certain guide levees and the important Morganza floodway and the Atchafalaya floodway as was intended by Congress.

Testimony was presented to prove that tremendous losses occurred to oyster beds both east and west of the Mississippi as a result of the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

In a strongly worded brief with exhibits supporting the two bills Attorneys Gamble and Bickerstaff representing respectively the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries and the Mississippi Seafood Commission, traced the events which led to the construction of the Spillway, and went on to say ". . . . that the damage was done according to a national plan of flood control finally adopted by the nation at great cost, which in good conscience must include the cost of direct injury involved in its execution."

Citing the importance of the oyster industry, the brief pointed out that oyster production in the brackish waters along the Louisiana and Mississippi coast, in the bays, bayous, and inlets, has been carried on for an officially known period of more than 75 years, the area around St. Bernard and Terrebonne where the damage in Louisiana was caused in 1945, being outstanding.

The brief cited the progress Louisiana has made in building up its oyster industry and also showed that in this work the Federal Government has given its encouragement, support and assistance in many ways. It then asks these pertinent questions:

"Can such long studied and continued governmental encouragement of the increase of a great natural resource and food supply, and the very considerable built up fishing and processing industry, be in part suspended and suspended by an act of another part of the government, with liability?"

"Can any contention that a few of the people must be distressed, some ruined, for the benefit of all the people, prevail in the conscience of Congress on a merely legalistic ground, such as that the exclusive right to regulate navigation for the benefit of the people in one field, commercial intercourse on the waters of the country, carries with it the right to callously destroy the property of a people in another field, operations in fisheries?"

The brief further pointed out that the State of Louisiana has not exacted a large income from oyster production, less than $60,000 per year. It has been regarded as a source of food supply, to bear the smallest possible burden.

Testimony by Mr. McConnell and Dr. Gowanloch pertained principally to the amount of damage done to the oyster beds as a result of the opening of the Spillway.

In his testimony, Mr. McConnell said that as a result of inflow of fresh water and silt through the Bonnet Carre Spillway, approximately 6,000,000 barrels of oysters were destroyed in the beds off St. Bernard Parish. He said each barrel contained about three bushels of oysters.

A brief in behalf of Terrebonne Parish oyster fishermen and cultivators as a result of damages growing out of the Atchafalaya floodway waters was filed by attorneys Robert U. Blum and Ford Reese.

Representative Hale Boggs and Representative James Domengeaux both spoke strongly in favor of the bills. Representative Boggs said the opening of the spillway was an incident to national flood control. As a result of the vast damage done to the oyster industry, he said damages suffered should not have to be borne by the small oyster growers and the respectives states. He traced briefly the flood control acts in support of his contentions.

Others who presented testimony were Dr. A. E. Hopkins, Pensacola, Fla., biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; F. W. Elmer, Biloxi, secretary of the Mississippi Seafood Commission, and several others.

District Attorney Leander H. Perez of the district comprising St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, as well as a number of oystermen from Southwest Louisiana, also were in attendance at the hearing.

Experiment With New Forestry Text-Book in Schools

"Ten Lessons in Forestry," a popularized booklet on forestry in Louisiana, designed for use in grade schools throughout the state, has just been released by the Louisiana Forestry commission in Baton Rouge.

Acting State Forester James E. Mixon stated that the publication was produced by his organization in co-operation with the State Department of Education. Already it has been introduced experimentally into eight parish school systems in the state, and plans are presently under way to extend its use to all parishes during the coming fall school session.

Mixon explained that this book will not be used in a separate course on forestry for schools, but will be incorporated as supplementary material in conjunction with courses in science, history, geography and language. This is part of a large scale program of forestry appreciation being sponsored in schools of Louisana by the Louisiana Forestry commission in co-operation with the State Department of Education.

"Ten Lessons in Forestry," was written by J. Walter Myers, Jr., a technical forester with a public relations background. Dr. Spencer R. Emmons, state supervisor of elementary education. colloborated in production of the booklet, serving as advisor on matters pertaining to education techniques. Illustrations were by Roy H. Odom and Lucius La Cour.

One of the lessons in forestry pertains to wildlife in the forest. Other lessons are on the following subjects: "Our forests, past and present"; "How Forests affect our lives in Louisiana"; "How a tree grows"; "Some important Louisiana trees"; "What we get from trees"; "Forests Forever"; "Soil, climate and trees"; "Enemies of the Forest", and "Guardians of the Forest".

The book is being used experimentally at present in Tangipahoa, Washington, Allen, Webster, Natchitoches, Jackson, LaSalle, and East Baton Rouge parish schools.

Noted Scientist Joins Staff of La. Department

An international expert and authority on fish life has been employed by the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries to assist in the ever expanding scientific research and experimental work now under way on various phases of marine fisheries.

Dr. Alexander D. Bajkov, widely known scientist and authority on fish life from the equator to the Artic has been appointed a special biologist. He has been assigned to handle inland fish life, the water hyacinth situation in Louisiana, and will work under the direct supervision of Dr. James Nelson Gowanloch, chief biologist of the Department.

For more than four years, Dr. Bajkov has been connected with the United States Army studying marine and inland fish survival, and he came to Louisiana, following the completion of his assignment with the Army.

His work in the past has taken him to the Siberian lakes and rivers, the waters of the Far East, the Russian and Canadian Artics, the Caspian and Mediterranean seas, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Officials Discuss State Recreational Services at Meet

Recreational services of Louisiana and how they may be increased to provide more recreation for more people, were discussed at a luncheon meeting of officials from various state departments held at Fontainebleau State Park near Mandeville May 13. The meeting was sponsored by the State Parks Commission, and was called by William W. Wells, its director.

Louisiana State University was represented by officials from the Agricultural Extension Service, the Department of Health and Physical Education, and the General Extension Division.

State Departments represented were the Department of Education, the State Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Louisiana State Library, Louisiana Forestry Commission, Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, Department of Highways and Department of Commerce and Industry.